

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record when considered as a whole, alone or in combination, neither anticipates nor renders obvious a thermostat of an internal combustion engine comprising a valve body configured to open and close the cooling water passage by moving with respect to the valve seat of the valve housing when the piston rod slides in accordance with change of the volume of the thermally expansive body, the valve body being configured to seat on the inlet seal of the valve seat, and the valve housing has an internal wall face forming a portion of the cooling water passage further on a downstream side of the valve seat, and the internal wall face is configured such that in a valve open condition, *the inlet seal of the valve seat and a top face of the valve body form a cross-sectional area of the portion of the cooling water passage which gradually decreases from a maximum passage cross-sectional area on an upstream side of the valve seat.*

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chen-Wen Jiang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on (571) 272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chen-Wen Jiang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3744